

The Historian

of Hancock County

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

MAY 1996

MERRY MONTH IS MAY

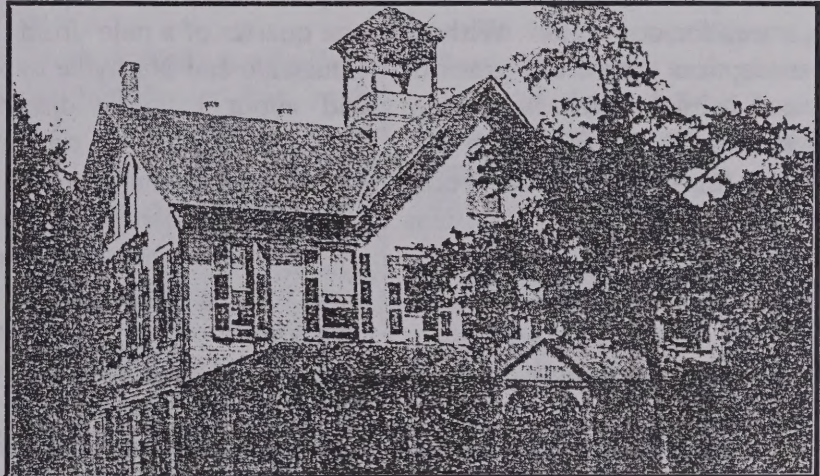
The Hancock County Historical Society has reason to be merry this month - the dedication of our grand new addition to the Lobrano House. On May 23rd at noon we will open our new room and our new rose garden officially. We have asked every official we know to the celebration.

After several years of fund-raisers, planning and working toward this end, the time has finally arrived, so let's celebrate! Make your reservations for lunch. Phone 467-4090. As usual, lunch will be \$5.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The enormous undertaking of showing Camp Onward is complete and we did an incredible job. The beautifully restored old beachfront mansion was ours for one brief month and we furnished it splendidly with hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of fine antiques, china, carpets, and most importantly, with people enjoying its old-world ambiance.

The ladies and gentlemen of our Society, the RSVP, Altrusa and other volunteers sat on its broad gallery, visited within its gracious halls, chatted in its par-



THE NEW SCHOOL BUILDING

lor, and admired its formal dining room.

Mickey (Mrs. Neal) Burns scheduled all the hosts and hostesses, coordinated their times, greeted and tutored them, assigned their posts and was present every single minute of the complete show. On behalf of myself and of the Society, I would like to express our appreciation for the marvelous job she did.

The volunteers were remarkable. Without exception, they did a wonderful job and did it with such great spirit. Thank you one and all.

Melinda Richard of Gather Ye Rosebuds kept the house filled with roses, so beautiful that one

(Continued on page 2)

THE BAY'S NEW SCHOOL IN 1893

The public school building is complete, and the following dispatch to a New Orleans paper is so accurate of the building, that we use part of it:

Among the many recent improvements is the erection of a first class public school, one of the finest in South Mississippi and a matter of pride to every taxpayer in Bay St. Louis. If the country had been looked over, a more lovely or convenient spot could not have been selected for an educational institution.

This splendid sight is on a slight elevation among beautiful
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PRESIDENT from page 1

could easily forget the present and find himself visiting an earlier time.

We are very fortunate to have wonderful antique shops across the coast whose owners were willing to lend their wares for our show. Without exception they were gracious and helpful. Please visit them and thank them for their help.

Ann's Place, 39613 Pecan Drive, Pearl River, Louisiana (just east of Slidell).

Atlantic Empire Antiques, 209 Highway 90, Waveland.

Bay Emporium, 104 N. Beach Blvd, Bay St. Louis.

Blue Rose Antiques, 120 W. Scenic Drive, Pass Christian.

Mike Brewer Clocks 868-8557

Capital Antiques, 2045 E. Pass Road, Gulfport.

Countryside Antiques, 151 Highway 90, Waveland.

Court Street Station, 200 South Beach Blvd, Bay St. Louis.

Cummings Antiques, 131 Main Street, Bay St. Louis.

Carrie Devalt, 212 Main Street, Bay St. Louis.

G & S Studio Antiques, 467-3275.

M. Schon Antiques, 110 Second Street, Bay St. Louis.

Jeanne Warner, paintings, 467-2146.

To everyone who helped us furnish Camp Onward, Thank you. Charles Gray

SCHOOL from page 1

pinetrees, oaks, and cedars, corner of Carroll and Second Streets, both of which have been shelled and opened under the administration of Capt. Toulme, the present mayor. The building is about one quarter of a mile from the Louisville and Nashville depot and about half the distance from the courthouse on Main Street, in easy distance for all the children attending school.

The schoolhouse is 42x62 feet with a large hall and handsome front gallery, and contains four very large recitation and study rooms, also an exhibition hall with twenty-one windows and in a state suitable for all the purposes for which it has been built.

The whole building is well ventilated for summer and winter. Flues have been built in all the rooms, and during the coldest weather the pupils can study in warmth and comfort. The building has been painted cream, with seal brown trimmings, the inside being hard oil finish. The apparatus for the school is complete, and is furnished with everything useful for a first-class institution. The best of water will be supplied for the building, and a pupil breathing the sweet pure air from the pines and cedars, cannot help enjoying good health, surrounded on one

side by the delicious scent from the pines and flowers, and on the other by the balmy breezes wafted over the gulf from other lands.

The playgrounds are large, filled with oaks and cedars, with a 6-foot board fence between. The front yard will be used mostly for the teachers for cultivating flowers, which will not only add to the beauty of the place but will be the means of those engaged in the work of plenty out-door, healthy exercise.

The building and furnishings are estimated at a cost of about \$4500 and it can be truthfully stated that any citizen of the Bay possessed of public spirit will never be sorry for his part in the payment.

The school is presided over by Prof. J. T. Eagan from Nashville, Tenn., a graduate of the National Normal University, Lebanon, Ohio, and Linwood High School, Tennessee. Prof. Eagan is not only a learned and competent man, but is a gentleman of culture and refinement. At present he is assisted by two accomplished young ladies, both of whom have considerable experience in teaching. Miss Theo Reese, graduated with high honors at Saint Joseph's Academy, Bay St. Louis, while Miss Graham received hers at Columbus, Miss. (Sea Coast Echo, May 16, 1893) *Editor's Note: The*

school was demolished in 1920 to make way for the a newer structure, the elegant Art Deco building now called Bay Middle School.

TOULME, EDUCATION MAYOR

John V. Toulme, Mayor in 1893, set aside the money (\$3,800.00) out of the meager revenues of the city for the purpose of erecting the present school building; he was threatened with indictment, it is said, by the grand jury, for misappropriation of funds.

An annex was built very much against the consent of the majority, during the Edwards administration, in the early part of 1906, Mr. Edwards finding money to do it, without a flotation of bonds. A picture of J. V. Toulme, the indomitable pioneer of free schools, now hangs in the school auditorium as an honored tribute to his manly character. There should be one of John D. Edwards beside it, as he stemmed the popular tide, and built the Annex. (Sea Coast Echo, Dec. 3, 1893)

SERVICES EXPANDED AT LOBRANO HOUSE

Thanks to a grant from the City of Bay St. Louis, we have hired a staff person, enabling us to expand our hours from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Karen Flores, whom many of you know for her diligent volunteer work for the Society, serves as official hostess,

computer researcher, office manager, and all-around pleasant presence. We welcome Karen heartily and look forward to increased efficiency and expanded service.

WHEN SALT WAS MONEY

Long centuries ago the Roman soldiers received a daily portion of salt as part of their pay - and when after a time this was changed to money, the amount was called *salarium*, or salt money- and the term from which we get our common expression "worth his salt."

During the War Between the States when the Federal fleet had the Gulf Coast effectively blockaded and food was very scarce, the people again discovered that salt in their day was as good as, or even better than money.

All along the shoreline of Bay St. Louis the citizens boiled the Gulf water in huge kettles to secure the salt and trade it to farmers in the back country for fresh meat and vegetables. In fact salt-making became almost a wartime industry.

In the records of J.F.H. Claiborne, the Mississippi historian whose plantation Laurel Wood was near Bay St. Louis, there is the recountal that Governor Petrus, the wartime governor of Mississippi, had contracted for 100,000 bushels of this Gulf Boiled Salt at \$35 a bushel for the Confederacy. Another account records that the Coast people were producing 500 bushels of salt a day and that twenty wagonloads had been shipped to

General Joseph E. Johnson's army.

JOSIE E. WELCH SAUCER DONATED

Early this century, Miss Josie Welch who owned a shop located on the beach across from the Merchants Bank sent photographs of the Bay Saint Louis area to Germany to have the scenes hand painted on china which she subsequently sold in her shop. One of these rare and highly collectible pieces was donated to the Society this week by Mrs. Alden Mauffray. This is a wonderful addition to our growing collection.

LA CUISINE DE CLARA

Installation of the beautiful beaded-board cabinets has completed Clara's Kitchen in the Lobrano house. Thank you again, Clara.

LOBRANO HOUSE HOURS

MONDAY	8:00 a.m.
through	to
FRIDAY	4:30 p.m.

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Hancock County Historical Society

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